



CITY OF BEND



CENTRAL OREGON  
community college



BEND CENTRAL  
DISTRICT  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



October 14, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 2022 RCP GRANT – City of Bend, Hawthorne Avenue Over-crossing

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support for the City of Bend’s application for the Hawthorne Avenue Over-crossing through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program. This diverse coalition of governmental, business and non-profit partners has come together to support this request to construct the Hawthorne Avenue Over-crossing, which will significantly enhance the livability of our rapidly growing community. The project being proposed will create a literal and figurative bridge to unite our community, and ensure equitable access to all residents.

The City of Bend is well positioned to leverage secured local investment for this important project, and work towards our coalition’s shared goals:

- Provide **safe multimodal connections** between the east and west sides of Bend
- Ensure **equitable access** to a variety of transportation options for all Bend residents
- Catalyze **housing and mixed-use development** in key areas of the City to increase housing and employment options in the center of the City
- Create **complete and walkable communities** with access to essential services, employment opportunities and affordable housing
- Support community **climate action** goals through investments that support multimodal travel and therefore reduced greenhouse gas emissions from transportation

This project will not only improve safety and efficiency of mobility options, but moreover will connect the east and west sides of Bend that have been separated by US 97 and the BNSF railway. Building and

enhancing this critical connection point will support multimodal transportation options and integrate downtown Bend with the Bend Central District (BCD) to catalyze much-needed urban development within our growing community.

The coalition's support for the Hawthorne Avenue Over-crossing project is rooted in the larger effort to redevelop and grow the BCD into a thriving community within our city to create a much-needed wide range of housing including affordable and middle-income options as well as a fully connected community from east to west.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our coalition's comments, and your consideration of the City's application.

Sincerely,



Katy Brooks  
President & CEO  
Bend Chamber of Commerce



Andrew D Ketsdever  
Interim Vice President  
Oregon State University - Cascades



Ben Gordon  
Executive Director  
Central Oregon LandWatch



Kurt Alexander  
President  
Bend Central District Business Association




Gena Goodman-Campbell  
Mayor  
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Don Horton  
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Laurie Chesley  
President  
Central Oregon Community College



Dr. Steve Cook  
Superintendent  
Bend LaPine School District